

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MASERU

INFO AMEMBASSY MBABANE

UNCLAS STATE 064892

E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT: THABA BOSIU PROJECT 031-TAB FUNDED RURAL

-- -- SOCIOLOGIST

REF; MASERU 267

1. AS REQUESTED REF, TAB CONCEWRNS ABOUT ACTUAL VERSUS
PLANNED USE OF SUSAN BURKE FOLLOW;

2. TAB PURPOSE IN FUNDING BURKE ASSIGNMENT IS TO LEARN
WHAT KINDS OF DATA AND WHAT METHODOLOGIES FOR OBTAINING
IT MOST USEFUL TO PROJECT OPERATIONS PARTICULARLY THE
ACTIONS BY LOCAL POPULATION NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH
PROJECT OBJECTIVES. IT IS EXPECTED THAT INFORMATION
GATHERED BY BURKE CAN BE USED BY PROJECT MANAGEMENT TO
HELP GUIDE STEPS TAKEN TO SECURE LOCAL ACTION NEEDED AND
ULTIMATE PROJECT OBJECTIVES.

3. ON BASIS ADMITTEDLY LIMITED INFORMATION AVAILABLE HERE,
IT APPEARS DUTIES CALLED FOR IN JOB DESCRIPTION DESIGNED
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TO PRODUCE ABOVE RESULTS ARE NOT BEING PERFORMED,

PARTICULARLY RE "IDENTIFICATION ATTITUDINAL OR SOCIO-CULTURAL FACTORS WHICH MAY IMPEDE OR ASSIST MEETING PROJECT GOALS " AND "STUDIES CONCERNING SOCIOLOGICAL

IMPLICATIONS OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES IN RURAL COMMUNITIES." FROM INFORMATION RECEIVED HERE, IT APPEARS BURKE IS PRIMARILY INVOLVED IN AGRO-ECONOMIC RESEARCH WITH RESPECT TO CROP PRODUCTION FACETS PROJECT RATHER THAN SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH AS SPECIFIED IN JOB DESCRIPTION. A LETTER FROM HER DATED 5/27/74 STATED THAT SHE WAS INVOLVED IN AN ASPARAGUS STDY AND WAS CONTINUING HER WORK ON A FARM HOUSEHOLD SURVEY. HER LATEST LETTER DATED 9/10/74 INDICATES CONTINUED INVOLVEMENT IN THE HOUWSEHOLD SURVEY PLUS TWO OTHER FARM LEVEL AGRO-ECONOMIC SURVEYS. IT APPEARS THAT SHE IS WORKING PRIMARILY ON ADMINISTERING THESE SURVEYS INCLUDING SUPERVISING STAFF, PREPARING QUESTIONNAIRES, RECRUITING AND TRAINING ENUMERATORS AS WELL AS CODING AND PREPARING DATA FROM THEM. WHILE WE DO NOT QUESTION NEED FOR THIS RESEARCH, WE DO QUESTION BURKE'S USE IN ACCOMPLISHING IT SINCE SHE LACKS APPROPRIATE TRAINING AND HER HEAVY INVOLVEMENT IN IT APPEARS TO BE PREVENTING HER FROM PERFORMING THE FUNCTIONS FOR WHICH SHE WAS ORIGINALLY ASSIGNED WHICH WE FEEL EQUALLY IMPORTANT TO PROJECT SUCCESS.

4. ALTHOUGH, WE UNDERSTAND THAT IBRD/AID EVALUATION TEAM WHICH VISITED PROJECT LAST NOVEMBER WAS ASSURED BY PROJECT AUTHORITIES THAT MORE SOCIOLOGICAL BASELINE STUDIES AND SPECIALSTUDIES WOULD BE DONE, TAB HAS NOT SEEN ANY EVIDENCE OF THIS.

5. TAB EXPRESSED TO OSARAC IN STATE 53543 OF MARCH 1973 DURING PREPARATION JOB DESCRIPTION FOR RURAL SOCIOLOGIST POSITION ITS CONWCERN THAT SOCIOLOGIST MIGDHT BE MISUSED IN PROJECT. ALTHOUGH IT WAS INDICATED IN MASERU 413 IN RESPONSE TO THIS CONCERN THAT NEITHER THE IMPORTANCE OF A RURAL SOCIOLOGIST TO PROJECT NOR THAT OF THE LOCAL ACTION COMPONENT OF PROJECT WOULD BE REDUCED, IT APPEARS TO US SUCH A REDUCTION HAS OCCURRED.

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6. REQUEST OSARAC CONVEY FOREGOING TO PROJECT DIRECTOR STRESSING IMPORTANCE WE PLACE ON UTILIZING BURKE AS SPECIFIED IN JOB DESCRIPTIONSO THAT A SUFFICIENT RETURN TO THE THABA BOSIU PROJECT AND TO TAB LOCDAL ACTION KEY PROBLEM AREA PROJECT MAY RESULT. PLEASE STRESS ALSO THAT WE RESPECT COMPETENCE AS WELL AS PREROGATIVE OF PROJECT SENIOR MANAGEMENT TO DETERMINE MOST APPROPRIATE

USE OF AVAILABLE STAFF. NONETHELESS IF OUR UNDERSTANDING OF SITUATION ESSENTIALLY CORRECT, AND SUSAN BURKE'S DUTIES ARE TO CONTINUE AS AT PRESENT WE SEE NO JUSTIFICATION FOR CONTINUED FUNDING OF POSITION FROM TAB LOCAL ACTION PROJECT FUNDS AND BELIEVE FUNDING SHOULD BE

ASSUMED BY THABA BOSIU PROJECT AT EARLIEST APPROPRIATE TIME AND NOT LATER THAN EXPIRATION CURRENT CONTRACT.

7. VICTOR BURKE LETTER TO FRENCH NOT YET RECEIVED. HOWEVER COMMENTS ON DAI PROJECT WRITE-UP RECEIVED BY DAI AND GREATLY APPRECIATED. PLEASE ASSURE VICTOR BURKE THAT ABOVE TAB VIEWS NOT ADVERSELY INFLUENCED BY THESE COMMENTS ALTHOUGH THEY DO INDICATE DIFFERENCE OF VIEW WHICH APPARENTLY EXIST REGARDING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ECONOMIC AND SOCIO-CULTURAL DATA.

8. ADVISE IF FRENCH VISIT STILL DESIRED. ANTICIPATE MAY WOULD PROBABLY BE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE UNLESS THERE ARE OVERRIDING REASONS FOR EARLIER VISIT. INGERSOLL

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